

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The specification is amended to correct grammatical errors.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,869,819 (Knowles). Claim 1 requires:

“a postage system configured to apply *postage* and a network address to objects in a *postage field* on the objects wherein the postage field comprises an area reserved on the objects for the postage.”

As discussed in the application, the United States Postal Service (USPS) charges a fee for delivering packages. The fee is paid in the form of *postage*, and the USPS requires that a package include postage before delivering the package. *The postage indicates the amount of money that has been paid for the package to be delivered.* One example of postage is postage stamps. Another example of postage is metered postage that is printed by a postage printing device. The postage printing device prints the metered postage on the object, and the amount of the postage is decremented from the user's postage account. The USPS designates a *postage field* on a package – typically on the upper right hand portion of a package. *The postage field is an area reserved on the package for the postage.*

The recent Office Action asserts that Knowles discloses a system that applies a network address and postage (Figure 13B) to a postage field (Figure 12A) on an object. This assertion is incorrect. The information structure of Figure 13B is not postage. The URL and zip code field of Figure 12A is not a postage field.

The information structure of 13B is stored on server 51 and is accessed by using the bar-encoded URL that is printed on the object. The URL is encoded on the object, *but the information structure of 13B is not printed on the object.* (See Knowles, column 19, lines 8-30; and column 19, line 66 to column 20, line 37; Figure 13B states that the information structure is stored in the RDBMS). In addition, the information structure does not include the postage – the amount of money that has been paid for the package to be delivered. (See Knowles, column 19, lines 25-65).

The URL and zip code of Figure 12A are not postage, and thus, the field on Figure 12A is not a postage field. The URL is used to access the information structure on

server 51. The zip code is used to route the object, and thus, represents the address field of the object (i.e. the delivery address on an envelope and not the stamp). (See Knowles, column 22, lines 11-17). The delivery address field having the zip code is different from the postage field having the postage.

Knowles does not mention placing the bar-encoded URL in a postage field. In fact, Knowles states that the bar-encoded URL can be placed "randomly on the surface(s) of the package." (See Knowles, column 23, lines 7-9). Clearly, Knowles does not teach

applying postage and a network address to a postage field.

Claim 1 also requires that the objects be delivered to users who use the network address to access information over the Internet. The recent Office Action cites the Package Routing, Transfer, and Delivery (RTD) System of Knowles as disclosing this limitation. The RTD system of Knowles is used by delivery personnel to deliver packages, but in the discussion of the RTD system, Knowles does not mention that the user who actually receives the delivered package from the RTD system then uses the bar-encoded URL to access information over the Internet. (See Knowles, column 18, line 27 to column 23, line 67).

The above reasoning also applies to claims 2-20.

Claim 4 requires "a postage printing device configured to receive *weight information* for the objects and apply the postage based on the *weight information*." The recent Office Action states that the information structure of 13A contains weight information and that printer 35 of Figure 1 prints postage based on the weight information. Applicant could not find any discussion related to Figure 13A that mentions weight information. The printer 35 of Figure 1 is a user printer that prints information downloaded from the Internet using a bar-encoded URL. Knowles does not state how printer 35 would be used in the RTD system, and Knowles does not teach that printer 35 prints postage. Knowles does not disclose applying postage, and clearly, Knowles does not disclose applying postage based on the weight information. This reasoning applies to claims 10 and 17.

Claim 13 requires "generating a *postmark* that includes the network address." As discussed in the application, the USPS delivers packages with proper postage and marks the postage to indicate that the postage has been used. Canceling the postage involves stamping the postage with a *postmark*. The postmark indicates to the USPS that the postage (i.e. a stamp) cannot be used again. The recent Office Action states:

that the package ID number of "fig 14C" discloses a postmark. Knowles does not have a Figure 14C. In any event, a package ID number is not a postmark. The same reasoning applies to claim 14.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-20.

  
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